

SHERIFFS (IRELAND) BILL.

MEMORANDUM ON FINANCIAL PROVISIONS.

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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Under the provisions of the Bill Under Sheriffs are in future to be appointed by the Lord Lieutenant and to hold office during his pleasure instead of being appointed by successive High Sheriffs, and all the powers and duties of High Sheriffs are transferred to the Under Sheriffs except powers and duties in connection with the reception of Judges and Commissioners at Assizes and the selection of Grand Jurors.

The Bill proposes to make the salaries heretofore paid to Sheriffs by county borough councils and county councils under the Grand Jury (Ireland) Act, 1836, payable in future to Under Sheriffs, and to increase the amounts.

It also proposes that fixed annual sums shall be paid to the Under Sheriffs out of moneys provided by Parliament. These payments will take the place, to a large extent, of the sums now voted annually to Sheriffs as an allowance towards salaries for Under Sheriffs and for repayment of the Sheriffs' out-of-pocket expenses in connection with Assizes. The net increase in the public charge involved will, it is estimated, amount to some £362 a year.

Clause 9 provides for an increase in the annual salary of a process-server (if he be also a bailiff) to £40. The process-server's salaries are borne on the votes. They were fixed by the Civil Bill Courts (Ireland) Act, 1851, at £10 a year, and increased in the current year to £20 under the Act 40 & 41 Vict., cap. 56. The intention is to obtain the services of a better class of officer who will devote his whole time to the duties of process-server and bailiff, and thus to secure ultimately a reduction in the present number of process-server (745), whilst increasing the salaries in certain instances.